

WEST TISBURY VISIONING COMMITTEE, October 3, 2023, pg 1

PRESENT: Leah Smith, Jane Rossi.

ALSO PRESENT: Sue Hurby, Nancy Hoffman, Bethany Hammond, Nicola Blake, Caroline Mayhew, Maribeth Macaisa, Dan Waters, Ollie Becker (briefly), Bea Phear, Jeffrey DuBard, Harriet Bernstein (briefly).

Leah opened the meeting at 5:10 pm.

MINUTES:

Nancy Hoffman made a motion to approve the August 29, 2023 and the September 12, 2023 minutes and Bea Phear seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

DISCUSSION:

●Update on the Survey:

Bea Phear reported that the committee had not yet met due to a Covid case. They planned to meet on Thursday October 5th with Dan Waters, Grant Joiner, Beth Kramer and Bea Phear.

●Update on the Statistics Committee:

Leah said she had been in touch with Susan Wasserman who is willing to assist with the compilation of current data and information. She said they will welcome more to join the committee.

Leah explained that the Martha's Vineyard Commission has an outdated report of the island that they have recently updated. The report will become available in early November.

●Update on Youth Involvement:

Marybeth said the group has been brainstorming and has reached out to the Charter School and the high school as well as to Samantha Look's son who is a student. They are also looking at existing clubs to seek interest in working with the committee. Nancy said the idea is that they don't want people to be tokens, and they will work with the students before hand to prepare the students for what they want to contribute. We want to include young parents and some high school students. There are different issues from students to young adults. Maribeth said they want to figure out how best to hear from young voices. Nancy said it would be nice to have 5 or so kids from the high school. Leah suggested some students fill out the survey to get their perspective. Alexandra suggested reaching out to and including middle school aged students as well. She suggested putting together fliers. Leah suggested a special survey for student aged students who may want to see more activities in various locations throughout the town. Nancy said they would address the ideas at their meeting. The committee discussed asking Delia Clark how best to get the youth engaged.

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Jane suggested the committee request that Delia Clark (Consultant) attend a future meeting for a question and answer session. She said she was still a bit confused about the process and what the committee's responsibilities and limitations were, adding that it was her understanding that the topics would be established at the actual workshop in the spring. Caroline Mayhew expressed her concerns regarding her confusion as well. Leah said we have a lot of issues to address but it will be more about what we want to address along with other subjects. Sue Hurby said if we want to preserve the environment then we will have to get tough.

Dan Waters said the survey questions are a bit targeted and could be drafted in such a way that suggests "offering possible actions", or "would you be in favor of" type of questions. He said it's important to get people to focus on solutions rather than problems. Nancy thought it would be tricky to do the visioning without having some topics. Leah said a useful tool at the last session were boards, set up with lists of items that people could post dots next to. Bea said it might be useful to look at a list and see what are the potential issues. Sue suggested something to the affect of "what are your top 5 issues" and go from there. Nancy asked about the Planning Board issues, wondering how they are actionable? Leah said some things like traffic or too many people are not really things we can fix. Sue H. suggested displaying a diagram of the visioning process and compare it to 25 years ago and see what was done then and what needs to be addressed. Leah said it may help people to understand how it all works.

Caroline said she wants people to be included, suggesting that the process should be open. Jane said that was a good question for Delia. Leah pointed out how difficult it is to get people to attend town meeting. The visioning will take some work to get people involved. Maribeth stated that the Housing Bank Coalition has done an amazing job of getting people involved and it may be useful to get some ideas from them. Alexandra suggested social media and said she could look into it. She said she will reach out to Laura Silber (Housing Bank).

Bea said that social media usage may be the tool that may be what get more people engaged, adding that not everyone wants to show up in a room these days. Nancy said people are actually missing the social piece and she thought perhaps people want to get together. Alexandra said social media is rather popular. Activities are popular and providing child care is helpful. Maribeth said that the youth wants to be heard and figuring out how to make that happen is important. Leah said these are all good questions for Delia. Bea said the committee should consider "what do we want to change from the past and bring into the future."

The committee determined that the next meeting will be a discussion on the sub-committee meetings and the following meeting will be with Delia.

Next meeting will be October 24th at 5:00.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane Rossi, Planning Board Administrator. **Approved on October 24, 2023**